Sept./Oct. 1990 UFO

Additional News, Comments on Cooper

Taking A Closer Look

A few readers submitted other views in response to our first 'Whistleblowers' (Vol. 5, No 4).

I am very alarmed at the direction your magazine is going. Once your magazine was unbiased and presented all sides of the issue. Now, it seems to have turned into a UFO debunking machine. You are not afraid to debunk Bill Cooper in print yet you have never printed anything in your magazine authored by him and if you do so, it will probably only be allowed insofar as a response to your crude article about him. The evidence you present on him is weak and shallow. The only things stated in your article were his movements, associations, releases and the petty allegations going back and forth between UFO researchers. That is not hard core investigation and the petty allegations take up a lot of space, accomplishing nothing but strife and dissension, and your magazine encouraging that kind of pettiness does a real disservice to the UFO community.

Not only that, but I notice that your "reviewers" have taken a debunking, nit-picking attitude towards the Gulf Breeze sightings, even though premier researchers like Bruce Maccabee and Budd Hopkins have announced their beliefs in these sightings. Why haven't you reported on Gulf Breeze as a genuine phenomenon—a history-making event once and for all proving that UFOs are real!? Why don't you present equal sides on issues as any good news magazine would do? What's the problem?

—Name Withheld, San Diego, CA

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I just finished UFO, Vol. 5, No. 4, and the content was excellent. With one exception: The Whistleblowers article focusing on Milton William Cooper.

Don't get me wrong; I'm no Cooper supporter. I came to the conclusion quite a while ago that Uncle Milty isn't playing with a full deck. Anyone who's well read in the UFO phenomenon knows that the man has "borrowed" information from wide-ranging sources to form his own Unified Conspiracy Theory.

What I objected to in the article was that Ecker didn't go more deeply into Cooper's background. In fact, Ecker used some of Cooper's own techniques (which he then criticized) in an attempt to disprove Cooper's claims. I am talking, of course, about using complete hearsay to prove or disprove a piece of information; that is "Knapp said" he said this instead of that..." "Lazar said" he threw a temper tantrum, he swore on the phone. Who cares? The information in the article only proves that Cooper has a lousy memory and doesn't handle stress well. Let's face it: the proof of Cooper's dishonesty presented in the article isn't proof; it's gossip.

Cooper makes a lot of claims, but Ecker would only have to focus on four that prove that Cooper is either a fraud or possibly telling some form of truth:

1. Cooper claims to have seen MJ-12 information while serving in a sensitive position in the Navy. Why didn't Mr. Ecker try to obtain Cooper's service record?
2. Cooper claims that his information doesn't hold together tightly because he's recalling it from memory; in fact, he claims to have undergone hypnosis to reconstruct it as accurately as possible. Why didn't Ecker attempt to contact the hypnotist?
3. Cooper claims to have lost a $75,000 a year job due to his UFO knowledge. Why didn't Ecker contact the employer to verify that piece of information?
4. Cooper claims that Tony Pelham is one of the people who has independently verified his identity, employment, service record, intelligence background and so on. Why didn't Ecker contact Pelham to confirm that claim?

I am hoping that part 2 of your Whistleblowers series will tie up these loose ends, because at this point I have to agree with Jacques Vallee; Don Ecker needs to do his homework.

—David Simerly, Watsonville, CA

Ed. Note: Simerly brings up some excellent points, some of which are included in the allegations and documentation we have that could have been used, but which had not been adequately verified by press time. It has already been reported that, contrary to his claims, Cooper was terminated from the job he refers to for behavioral reasons, not for his UFO knowledge. UFO has not yet obtained verification of this from the school personnel. Service records, incidentally, are supposedly one of the easiest forms of documentation to alter or hoax. The Whistleblowers investigation is an continuing project that is only in its earliest stages. Updates will be published on an ongoing basis.

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One of the biggest draws in Cooper's more recent lecture presentations is a videotaped clip from the famous Abraham Zapruder film of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Lars Hansson, JFK assassination researcher and producer of the videotape, entitled, "The Truth Betrayed: Dallas Revisited," narrates on the tape how the Secret Service driver, William Greer, turns around and fires the fatal shot at Kennedy.

In Nov. of 1988, UFO first saw this video at the home of John Lear, who had also given the tape to Cooper the month before. Hansson gave the following statement to UFO.

According to John Lear, Cooper was very interested in the Kennedy video at the time he received it, but it was not until they were both guests on a Las Vegas TV talk show with George Knapp in April 1989 that, much to Lear's surprise, Cooper claimed that he had seen verification of the driver scenario in the Navy briefing papers he claims to have read between 1970 and 1973.

Cooper has merely been using the videotape as a sensational ploy to sell tickets to his events. I had told Cooper not to show my tape publicly in early November 1989, that I did not support the theory and hadn't since November 1988, and have

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and attacked a number of people in the UFO field (I'm included, as is Don Ecker). Along with slander and lying, he has a clear history of contradicting himself, backtracking when caught in those contradictions and then attempting to patch up his story with a turnaround position based on sudden new claims that, true to style, cannot be checked out.

A Bill Cooper could not maintain a foothold in any other field. Such a bullying personality would have been "run out of town" long ago. But the fact that this man and others like him still can command some audience and are seen as having some veracity and authority denotes a sore lack of discrimination on the part of many in the UFO arena, if not outright foolishness.

But it should be likewise emphasized that this syndrome also testifies to our collective frustration with the lies and secret machinations of some powerful persons in the U.S. government, cultivating many people's willingness to listen and follow just about anyone who purports to be defending the Constitution and who vocally demands accountability from the very government officials in whom we should be able to place our trust.

It's so very important: Dedication to the absolute truth, to the finer points of democracy, when exercised without caution and discernment, plays right into the hands of those who would short-circuit those very precious qualities we hold dear. "Users" of all political persuasions will exploit the emotional fervor of the crowd to further their own selfish and inhumane ends. (Some names to remember: Adolf Hitler. Joseph Goebbels. Joseph Stalin. Joe McCarthy.)

It's imperative that we—and I include everyone who shares the vision of *UFO* Magazine—short-circuit such perniciousness at its very core, striking at the heart of demagoguery with persistent courage and honesty.

Only personal commitment to humane and truthful ideals, and the willingness to expose the truth, can successfully overcome The Big Lie. *UFO* Magazine honors just such a commitment. —*Vicki Cooper*

We offer the opportunity for Cooper to respond to any charges made in this magazine.

Closer Look

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never authorized distribution of the videotape to anyone.

Although I have never been convinced that the driver fired a weapon, and am certainly not convinced now, I had met in early 1988 at length with two other researchers who had spent years attempting to prove this theory, and it seemed that a compelling case existed to pursue an intensive investigation to confirm or disprove it. In the course of transferring the original 8mm film to video, it was arbitrarily decided to tone down the color during the first transfer, in order to heighten the contrast of reflective surfaces in the film, not in an attempt to deceive anyone.

The resulting tape was never intended as a "final product" or proof of anything, but simply as a spur to other researchers and/or financial backers to initiate a complete and thorough investigation of this "angle." The tape was made only as a research aid, an admittedly rushed and crude one, and was not to be sold or distributed to anyone. The most immediate and obvious problem with using it as proof is that there is no apparent muzzle blast or recoil from the so-called weapon, along with many other problems.

I first met American POW-hunter Lt. Col. Bo Gritz in mid-May 1988, and Captain John Lear a few weeks later, and I showed them the tape in hopes of enlisting their interest and support in my investigative effort. Although Lear felt that there may have been some connection between JFK's murder and his reputed determination to expose the UFO coverup to the public, this has never been even remotely substantiated. If anything, I believe the only aliens Kennedy was intent on exposing were the Nazis and fascists who had come to saturate the highest levels of the U.S. intelligence community, aerospace and defense industries. Unfortunately, Lear sent a copy of the tape to Bill Cooper along with his other research material, mistakenly believing he was a serious researcher.

Since that time, Cooper has shown the tape to hundreds of people and sold copies (under his own label) around the world, according to his distributor, Stan Barrington of Lancaster, CA. In early November 1989 and again in January 1990, I ordered Cooper to cease and desist, informing him that all the evidence I've gathered thus far disproves the "Greer Theory." He refused, claiming he saw 'all the proof' he needed in the so-called "Navy briefing papers" and that he would continue to show and sell it whether I approved or not. When I insisted that he remove my narration, since I did not want to be responsible for indirectly misleading the general public, he refused to do that also—although it was removed in the tape he showed at Hollywood High immediately after our talk. He claims now to have made his own "clearer" version.

On KVEG and KFI Radio recently, Cooper has claimed: 1) that I gave him a copy of the Kennedy tape and authorized him to use it;
2) that I made the tape for Lt. Col. Bo Gritz and authorized him to use it; 3) that I received my copy of the film from Robert Groden (one of the premier Kennedy researchers, a specialist on the Zapruder film and author of two best-selling books on the JFK assassination) and that Groden had worked for Time-Life and lied to the Senate Select Committee about Greer's role in the assassination.

I had not met or spoken to Bo Gritz and had never even heard of John Lear when I made the Kennedy videotape, and I did not authorize either gentleman to distribute it to anyone. Groden, who has labored tirelessly for more than two decades to expose Kennedy's killers, told me, "I would have been the first to charge Greer with shooting Kennedy *if it was true* . My copy of the film was taken directly from the original Zapruder print and my first effort was to zero in on the actions of agents Greer and Kellerman, only to discover that, while he turned around to look back at Kennedy TWICE, and stepped on the brakes instead of immediately accelerating, GREER'S HANDS NEVER LEFT THE STEERING WHEEL. The reflection on the film is the top of Kellerman's head, and is not from a weapon of any kind.

"The Senate Select Committee never called me to testify, but I spared no effort to influence them to call Greer for additional questioning. I have never worked for Time-Life in any capacity whatsoever."—*Lars C. Hansson*

Anyone who would like the entire story can contact me at:
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